

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action dated September 12, 2006. Claims 1-7 and 14-20 are pending. Claims 8-13 are withdrawn from consideration.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claim 14 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. 4,910,280 to Robbins III.

Applicants have amended claim 14 to clarify that the first and second polymer pieces are "C-shaped". No new matter has been added and support for the amendment can be found in Fig. 1. Nowhere does Robbins III teach or suggest C-shaped pieces.

In view of this amendment, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 14 defines over the prior art. Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claim 14 be withdrawn.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1, 6 and 7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. 6,354,057 to Ploplis in view of Robbins III.

Claims 2-5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. 6,354,057 to Ploplis in view of Robbins III and further in view of Enlow et al.

Claim 20 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Robbins III in view of Ploplis.

The Office states that Ploplis teaches a corner finishing trim having first and second thermoplastic pieces (Fig. 11), the first and second polymer pieces are then shown in Fig. 1 to be welded together (col. 6, line 65) to form an angle. The Office further states that since Ploplis teaches pieces welded together, it is considered to read on the claims.

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. Applicants claim, in part, "...said first polymer piece and said second polymer piece are welded together". Ploplis specifically teaches "...edges 35 are welded together to form a three-dimensional structure." See also Fig. 8. Nowhere do Ploplis teach or suggest two separate pieces (a first extruded polymer piece and a second extruded polymer piece) being welded together, as Applicants claim. There is no mention of welding the pieces shown in Fig. 11 only the edges of the one piece structure 15. As such, it is respectfully submitted that the Office Action does not meet the criteria for establishing a *prima facie* case of obviousness.

To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, three criteria must be met. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Finally, the applied reference must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. The mere fact that references can be combined or modified does not render the resultant combination obvious unless the prior art also suggests the desirability of the combination. Further, the fact that the claimed invention is within the capabilities of one of ordinary skill in the art is not sufficient by itself to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness without some objective reason to combine the teachings of the references. See MPEP §2143.

Applicants respectfully request that the 103(a) rejections of claims 1-7 and 20 be withdrawn.

Claims 15-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Robbins III in view of Enlow.

Claim 19 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Robbins III.

As indicated above, claim 14 has been amended to clarify that the polymer pieces are C-shaped. Claim 14 now defines over the Robbins III reference. Claims 15-19 ultimately depend from newly amended 14 and contain the limitations thereof.

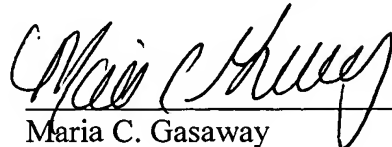
Applicants respectfully request that the 103(a) rejection of claims 15-19 be withdrawn.

Conclusion

In view of the above, it is submitted that claims 1-7 and 14-20 are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the rejections is requested. Allowance of all claims at an early date is solicited. If any questions should arise with respect to the above Remarks, or if the Examiner has any comments or suggestions to place the claims in better condition for allowance, it is requested that the Examiner contact Applicants' agent at the number listed below.

Applicants authorize any fees required pertaining to this response be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0568.

Respectfully submitted,



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